EQ- What is the history of the Indo-European language family? How did the English language diffuse?

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Homework:
1. Complete the English language reading and 4-square chart
2. Test next Wednesday
**Vocabulary**

**Diffusion** - the spread of a cultural trait (including language)

**Proto-Indo-European** - the hypothesized common ancestor of all Indo-European languages; believed to have been spoken over 6000 years ago
1. The Indo-European language family includes the major languages of Europe and those dominant in all the following regions EXCEPT:
   a. Russia
   b. Northern India
   c. Iran
   d. Eastern and Southern Australia
   e. Central Asia

2. Which of the following best accounts for the universal appeal of blue jeans?
   a. Diffusion of popular culture
   b. Adoption of unique folk culture
   c. Impact of high income on clothing habits
   d. Lack of barriers in communist countries
   e. Need for durable clothing

3. The dependency ratio is most useful for indicating the
   a. reliance of a country on imported fossil fuels
   b. degree of gender equality within a country
   c. relationship between the total fertility rate and the infant mortality rate
   d. percentage of foreign ownership within the secondary sector
   e. relationship between the potential labor force of a country and everyone else
The Indo-European Family

- The World’s most spoken language FAMILY! (2.7 billion speakers)
- 8 total branches

Four MAJOR Branches:
- Indo-Iranian- in South Asia
- Romance- in SW Europe and Latin America
- Germanic- in NW Europe and North America
- Balto-Slavic- in Eastern Europe
Indo-Iranian Branch

- **Indic Group** in the East - India, Pakistan and Bangladesh - Hindi is major - but India is very diverse and has 438 languages!

- **Iranian Group** in the West - Persian (Farsi) in Iran, Pashto in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Kurdish in Iran, Iraq and Turkey
Germanic Branch

- **West Germanic**
  (English, German, Dutch, Flemish)
- **North Germanic**
  - spoken in Scandinavia
  (Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic)
Balto-Slavic Branch

- Groups formed after migration in the 7th century
- East Slavic Group and Baltic Group
  - Most widely used
  - Russian in the major one (spread during Soviet rule)
  - Also includes Ukrainian and Belarusan
  - Use the Cyrillic alphabet
- West Slavic Group and South Slavic Group
  - West: Polish, Czech and Slovak
    - Czech and Slovak are very similar - the two were united under Soviet rule as Czechoslovakia but split
  - South: Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian <really the same language, but they like to have their own names in the countries>
    - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia - used to be united as Yugoslavia where the language was called “Serbo-Croatian”
    - Bosnia and Croatia - write in Roman alphabet
    - Montenegro and Serbia - write in Cyrillic
Romance Branch

• All of these evolved from Latin-Rome’s language → different languages formed after fall of Rome
• Five major- Spanish, Portuguese, French and Italian, Romanian

Romance languages spread to other parts of the world- Africa and Latin America- because of colonization and imperialism
History of Indo-European Family

We THINK it all started with one language: the Proto-Indo-European because all Indo-European languages share some words <beech, oak, bear, deer, pheasant, bee, winter, snow>

Because of the common words, we think that the original speakers must have lived in a cold climate, not around an ocean.
Two theories:

**Kurgan People** - lived between Russia and Kazakhstan in 4300 BC, they were nomadic warriors and spread the language through military conquests.

**Anatolians** (modern day Turkey) - lived around 6700 BC, spread the language through farming practices.
One sentence/fact for each letter.
Facts to know about the other families:

Sino-Tibetan-
• Includes Mandarin Chinese- the one language spoken by the most people
• Chinese languages written using ideograms → symbols that represent ideas/things rather than sounds

Austronesian- spoken in Indonesia, a country made up of thousands of small islands- also spoken in Madagascar- an island off of Africa- which makes us think a group migrated there from Indonesia

Afro-Asiatic- Arabic is the major language, spoken in over 24 countries, language of the Islamic Koran

Altaic- major is Turkish

Uralic- only other family found in Europe: Estonia, Finland and Hungary

Niger-Congo- 95% of sub-Saharan Africa; Swahili is the major one-spoken by over 30 million Africans

Khoisan- uses clicking sounds, small language in southern Africa
History of the English Language

• Celts in England- 2000 BCE (4,000 years ago)
• AD 450- German tribes (Angles, Jutes, Saxons) invaded
• English spoken today evolved from the mix of ethnic languages spoken mixed with language of these invaders AND
• 1066- Normans from FRANCE conquer England- their French mixes in too!
• French was official language for 300 years- Germanic language of the commoners and French language of the government mixed to form modern English language
Then.... Colonization!

As a result of this, English is the most widely spoken language in the world.